

IN THE CLAIMS

**CLEAN VERSION OF THE PENDING CLAIMS Under 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(3):**

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-15, and 17-48, now pending, are submitted below in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121(c)(3), which presents a clean version of the entire set of pending claims in this single amendment paper.

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1. (Thrice Amended) A computer-readable medium having a plurality of executable instructions at least a subset of which, when executed, implement a method comprising:

upon receipt of an indication from a user having access to a computer network to access a resource on the computer network, checking a first memory, without performing a file open procedure upon a file in which are stored any access permissions of users for access to the resource, to determine if the user has previously accessed the resource; and

providing the user with access to the resource if the first memory indicates that the user has previously accessed the resource.

Claim 2 – cancelled.

3. (Unamended) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the user is represented in the first memory by a token.

4. (Unamended) The computer-readable medium of claim 3 wherein the token also represents a plurality of other users.

5. (Unamended) The computer-readable medium of claim 3 wherein the token also represents anonymous users.

Claim 6 – cancelled.

7. (Unamended) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the resource is a file.

8. (Unamended) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the resource is a volume of files.

9. (Unamended) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the resource is a memory device.

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10. (Once Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 29 wherein storing the information in the first memory comprises overwriting other information associated with the resource in the first memory.

11. (Unamended) The computer-readable medium of claim 10 wherein storing the information in the first memory comprises writing a token for the user in the first memory over another token for another user that had last previous access to the resource.

12. (Unamended) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 further comprising, if the resource is altered, removing indications from the first memory allowing access to the resource.

13. (Unamended) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 further comprising, if the rights of the user are altered, removing indications from the first memory allowing access by the user.

14. (Unamended) The computer-readable medium of claim 1 wherein the request from the user indicates an operation to perform with respect to the resource, and further comprising:

checking the first memory to determine if the user may perform the operation with respect to the resource;

providing the user with access to the resource to perform the operation if the first memory indicates that the user may perform the operation with respect to the resource;

checking a second memory to determine if the user may perform the operation with respect to the resource if the first memory does not indicate that the user may perform the operation with respect to the resource;

providing the user with access to the resource if the second memory indicates that the user may perform the operation with respect to the resource; and

storing information in the first memory indicating that the user may perform the operation with respect to the resource if, after checking the second memory, the second memory indicates that the user may perform the operation with respect to the resource.

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15. (Twice Amended) A method for providing access to a requested resource on a computer network, the method comprising:

checking a first memory, {without performing a file open procedure upon a file in which  
C3 are stored any access permissions of users for access to the requested resource}, to determine if a user having access to the computer network has previously accessed the requested resource; and  
providing the user with access to the requested resource if the first memory indicates that the user has previously accessed the requested resource.

Claim 16 – cancelled.

17. (Unamended) The method of claim 15 wherein the user is represented in the first memory as a token.

18. (Unamended) The method of claim 17 wherein the token also represents a plurality of other users.

19. (Unamended) The method of claim 17 wherein the token represents anonymous users.

20. (Unamended) The method of claim 17 further comprising:  
authorizing the user by checking a password provided by the user;  
associating the token with the user after authorizing the user; and  
using the token to check the first memory.

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C4 21. (Once Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the requested resource is a  
file.

22. (Once Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the requested resource is a  
volume of files.

23. (Once Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the requested resource is a  
memory device.

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24. (Once Amended) The method of claim 30 wherein storing the information in  
the first memory comprises overwriting other information associated with the requested resource  
in the first memory.

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25. (Once Amended) The method of claim 24 wherein storing the information in  
the first memory comprises writing a token for the user in the first memory over another token  
for another user that had last previous access to the requested resource.

26. (Once Amended) The method of claim 15 further comprising, if the requested resource is altered, removing indications from the first memory allowing access to the requested resource.

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27. (Unamended) The method of claim 15 further comprising, if the rights of the user are altered, removing indications from the first memory allowing access by the user.

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28. (Once Amended) The method of claim 15 wherein the request from the user indicates an operation to perform with respect to the requested resource, and further comprising:  
checking the first memory to determine if the user may perform the operation with respect to the requested resource;

providing the user with access to the requested resource to perform the operation if the first memory indicates that the user may perform the operation with respect to the requested resource;

checking a second memory to determine if the user may perform the operation with respect to the requested resource if the first memory does not indicate that the user may perform the operation with respect to the requested resource;

providing the user with access to the requested resource if the second memory indicates that the user may perform the operation with respect to the requested resource; and

storing information in the first memory indicating that the user may perform the operation with respect to the requested resource if, after checking the second memory, the second memory

CS indicates that the user may perform the operation with respect to the requested resource.

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CS 29. (Once Amended) A computer-readable medium according to claim 1, further comprising:  
checking a second memory to determine if the user may access the resource if the first memory does not indicate that the user has previously accessed the resource;  
providing the user with access to the resource if the second memory indicates that the user may access the resource; and  
storing information in the first memory indicating that the user may access the resource if, after checking the second memory, the second memory indicates that the user may access the resource.

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30. (Unamended) A method according to claim 15, further comprising:  
checking a second memory to determine if the user may access the requested resource if the first memory does not indicate that the user has previously accessed the requested resource;  
providing the user with access to the requested resource if the second memory so indicates;  
and  
storing information in the first memory indicating that the user may access the requested resource, if the second memory so indicates.



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31. (Once Amended) A method for controlling access to a requested resource on a computer network by a requesting user having access to the computer network, the method comprising:

checking a memory, without performing a file open procedure upon a file in which are stored any access permissions of users for access to the requested resource, to determine if the requesting user has previously accessed the requested resource; and

providing the requesting user with access to the requested resource if the requesting user has previously accessed the requested resource.

32. (Once Amended) A method according to claim 31, further comprising:

performing a file open procedure upon the file in which are stored any access permissions of users for access to the requested resource to determine if the requesting user may access the requested resource if the memory does not indicate that the requesting user has previously accessed the requested resource; and

providing the requesting user with access to the requested resource if the requested resource indicates that the requesting user may access the requested resource.

Add new Claims 33-48 as follows:

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(New) A method according to claim 31, further comprising, prior to checking the memory, performing a preliminary memory check to determine if the requesting user has previously accessed the computer network.

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(New) A machine-readable program storage device embodying instructions executable by a computer to perform a method for providing access to a plurality of resources to a plurality of requesting users, wherein access to each said resource is controlled by a network server having a network memory, the method comprising:  
receiving at the network server a resource request to access a requested resource of said plurality of resources from one said requesting user, wherein:

the network memory has stored therein which of said plurality of requesting users had accessed which of said plurality of resources; and

an access file has stored therein any access permissions of any users for access to the requested resource;

{ without opening the access file } checking the network memory to determine if the requesting user had accessed the requested resource; and

if the requesting user had accessed the requested resource, opening the requested resource to provide access to the requesting user.

<sup>36</sup><sub>35</sub> (New) The method of claim <sup>35</sup><sub>34</sub>, the method further comprising, when the requesting user had not previously accessed the requested resource:

opening the access file;

checking the access file to determine if the requesting user may have access to the

requested resource; and

if the check is affirmative, then providing said access.

Rule 1.126  
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<sup>37</sup><sub>36</sub> (New) A resource access system comprising:  
a network, including a plurality of resources, for transmitting a resource request from a network user with access to the network for access to a requested resource of said plurality of resources; and

a network server, in communication with the network, for:

receiving the resource request;

checking, without opening any of said plurality of resources, whether the network user's resource request had been previously granted; and

granting said access if the check is affirmative.

<sup>38</sup><sub>37</sub> (New) The resource access system of claim <sup>37</sup><sub>36</sub>, wherein granting said access further comprises opening the requested resource for the network user to have said access to the requested resource.

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(New) A program for a resource access system, the program being embodied on a computer-readable medium and executed on a server that provides access to resources on a network, the program comprising:

a code segment to receive a resource request for access to one said resource from a user having access to the network;

a code segment to check, without opening any of said resources on the network, whether the user had previously been granted access to the requested resource; and

a code segment to grant said access if the check is affirmative.

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(New) The program of claim <sup>39</sup>~~38~~ further comprising a code segment to open the requested resource for the user of the network to have said access to the requested resource if the check is affirmative.

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(New) A method for controlling access to a requested resource on a computer network by a requesting user, the method comprising:

checking a first memory, without opening the requested resource, to determine if the requesting user has previously accessed the network; and

if the requesting user has previously accessed the network:

providing the requesting user with access to the network;

checking a second memory, without opening the requested resource, to determine if the requesting user has previously accessed the requested resource;

if the requesting user has previously accessed the requested resource then providing the requesting user with access to the requested resource; and

if the requesting user has not previously accessed the requested resource then opening the requested resource to determine if the requesting user may access the requested resource and if the requested resource indicates that the requesting user may access the requested resource then providing the requesting user with access to the requested resource.

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(New) A resource access determination method comprising:

receiving a request for an access to a resource from a user having had said access; and  
deciding the request without opening the resource or contacting the user.

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(New) The method as defined in Claim 41, further comprising, prior to said receiving:

receiving a request for an access to the resource from the user who had not previously accessed the resource; and

obtaining any access privileges to the resource of the user without contacting the user.

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43. (New) A resource access determination method comprising:

receiving an initial request for an access to a resource from a user;

obtaining an access privilege of the user to the resource without contacting the user; and

if the user had the access privilege to the resource:

granting the initial request;

receiving subsequent requests for subsequent accesses to the resource from the user; and

granting each said subsequent request without:

opening the resource; or

contacting the user.

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(New) The method as defined in Claim 43, wherein:

granting the initial request further comprises caching the result of said obtaining said access privilege of the user to the resource; and

granting each said subsequent request further comprises comparing each said subsequent request with said cached result of said obtaining said access privilege of the user to the resource.

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(New) A resource access determination method comprising:

receiving a request for an access to a resource from a user having had said access; and

deciding the request prior to contacting the user and without opening the resource.

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(New) In a system where resources are protected by access checks that are performed to confirm that a user meets any requirements for access to a particular resource, and where an access check is performed the first time that the user requests access to the particular resource to confirm that the user meets any requirements for access to the particular resource, a method for determining whether the user should have access to the particular resource, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a user for access to a resource;

checking the results of previous access request checks to determine if the user has previously been allowed access to the resource;

if the user has previously been allowed access to the resource, then allowing access to the resource without performing an access check.

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(New) The method as defined in Claim ~~46~~, wherein the results of previous access request checks are cached in a cache.

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(New) In a system where resources are protected by access checks that are performed to confirm that a user meets any requirements for access to a particular resource, where the requirements for each user to access each resource are stored in an access file, where an access check is performed the first time that the user requests access to the particular resource to confirm that the user meets any requirements for access to the particular resource, and where the access check that is performed the first time that the user requests access to the particular resource includes performing a file opening procedure upon the access file to determine the requirements for the user to access the particular resource, a method for determining whether the user should have access to the particular resource, the method comprising:

receiving a request from a user for access to a resource;

checking the results of previous access request checks, without opening the access file, to determine if the user has previously been allowed access to the resource;

if the user has previously been allowed access to the resource, then allowing access to the resource without performing an access check.

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